

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 July 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED, OLD VALLEY PIPELINE, LAUREL AVENUE PROJECT, STRATFORD, KINGS COUNTY

To: Offsite Property Owners and Other Interested Parties,

This Public Notice is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the subject case, and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure at the subject site (Site).

The Site is at the northwest intersection of Laurel Avenue and 17th Avenue, and consists of about 160 acres of agricultural land. Installation of a solar farm array has been proposed for the Site. The Site includes historical easements for the former OVP and TAOC pipelines. From the early 1900s to the mid-1960s, a Chevron predecessor used the TAOC and OVP pipelines to transport crude oil from Kern County to the Richmond Refinery. Leaks of petroleum hydrocarbons from the two pipelines were responsible for soil and groundwater impacts at the Site. The depth to groundwater beneath the Site is approximately 3.75 to 12.5 feet below ground surface (bgs).

Site investigations included soil borings and the trench excavations. Samples collected from previous investigations exhibited evidence of petroleum hydrocarbons. During previous investigations total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) were detected in soil samples from all borings. Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes (BTEX), and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were generally not detected, except for one sample with a naphthalene concentration of 22 milligrams per kilogram. Analytical results for a soil vapor sample that was collected indicated no detections. Analytical results for groundwater samples indicated concentrations of TPH ranging from 15,000 micrograms per liter (ug/L) to 85,000 ug/L in two limited areas. BTEX compounds were not generally detected with exception of ethylbenzene in a few borings.

In a letter dated 7 February 2014, Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) determined that the lateral extent of the hydrocarbon affected soil and groundwater had been defined and additional characterization was not needed. In a letter dated 29 October 2019, Staff determined that the human health risk screening evaluation submitted by

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Chevron's former consultant, Leidos, Inc. (Leidos), which included a toxicologist review by Arcadis U. S., Inc. (Arcadis), was appropriate for the Site to be developed as a solar farm. The human health risk screening evaluation demonstrated that the calculated cancer risk for constituents of concern in soil and soil vapor was less than the threshold of $1\text{E-}06$, and the calculated non-cancer hazard risk was less than 1.

On 31 January 2020, Arcadis submitted the *No Further Action Request* (Report) on behalf of Chevron Environmental Management Company (Chevron) requesting a status of No Further Action based on the following:

- The sources of the petroleum hydrocarbon impacted soil and groundwater at the Site were from the former OVP. The operation of this pipeline ceased in the 1960s. The residual, heavily weathered crude oil is very viscous, relatively non-volatile and immobile.
- The petroleum hydrocarbon impacted soil and groundwater detected beneath the Site has been adequately assessed. In a letter dated 7 February 2014, Central Valley Water Board staff stated: "The lateral extent of crude oil affected soil and groundwater has been defined and additional characterization is not needed."
- The first encountered groundwater (3.75 to 12.5 feet bgs) is not likely to be used as a source of drinking water. Therefore, environmental screening levels were not considered applicable.
- A review of the Department of Water Resources Water Data library confirmed that only one water supply well (ID 361819N1197629W001) is located within a 2,000-foot radius of the site; approximately 1,180 feet south of the Site and used for irrigation.
- The results of the human health screening evaluation conducted by Leidos indicated that the residual soil and groundwater impacts should not pose a significant risk to human health.
- The results of the sensitive ecological receptor survey performed by Leidos indicated that none of the five threatened or endangered species identified in the general area were found within a one-mile radius of the site.

In a letter dated 3 March 2020, Staff determined that the information provided in the Report and the human health screening analysis appear to demonstrate that the proposed future use of the Site as a solar farm is appropriate, and a status of no further action would be considered pending the completion of the public comment process. In a letter dated 4 March 2020, Staff determined that the Soil and Groundwater Management Plan (SGMP) submitted for the Site appeared to be appropriate. The SGMP designates Chevron as the responsible party to address residual crude oil identified as resulting from the former pipeline system that may be encountered during future Site activities. The concentrations of crude oil remaining at the Site will continue to naturally degrade over time.

Groundwater beneath the Site is not likely to be used as a source of drinking water. It should be noted that groundwater was not evaluated in the human health screening evaluation, and additional Site evaluation may be necessary if the Site is to be

considered for a purpose that requires the use of groundwater. Staff stated in the 3 March 2020 letter that the Central Valley Water Board needs to be contacted for possible additional Site evaluation if it is decided that the property is to be used for a purpose other than a solar farm.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to parties on the attached list, and is posted on the Central Valley Water Board website(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/), under Public Notices, Site Cleanup Program, Decisions Pending & Case Closure. Details of the site assessment and cleanup are also available through the GeoTracker website (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) by searching for case number **T10000004614**. This information may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street in Fresno, California.

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments. Comments regarding the proposed closure need to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board office at the above listed address **by 13 August 2020**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the site or the proposed action should contact Brian Hitz at the above address, by e-mail atbrian.hitz@waterboards.ca.gov, or by telephone at (559) 445-5170.

At the completion of the public comment period and in the absence of substantive comment against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board staff will proceed with the closure process for the case. The Public Notice was mailed to the addresses on Table 1.

Table 1
Interested Party Survey

APN	Owner	Mailing address	Occupant	Property address
026-200-002	Joe L. Parreira	18081 17 th Avenue Stratford, CA 93266	N/A	17250 Laurel Avenue
026-200-001	Patrick W. Newton	PO Box 117 Stratford, CA 93266	N/A	17500 Laurel Avenue